

March 7, 2013

Re: SB374, An Act Requiring Behavioral Health Assessments for Children

To the Connecticut General Assembly:

I am writing to voice my unease about SB374. While I appreciate the time and thought you are devoting to maintaining the mental wellness of Connecticut's children in the wake of the Newtown tragedy, I believe that this bill will cause more confusion and ostracism than progress.

Because the bill gives no parameters for "assessments" and "providers" children raised in cultures and belief systems not favored by the methods or people carrying out testing will be unfairly evaluated. The absence of specificity in SB374 will unfortunately result in a lack of protection for individual's rights.

I urge you to make sure that existing Connecticut programs are accessible and being fully funded and implemented and to fill holes by amending laws rather than passing hasty and wide-sweeping legislation that places the fate of Connecticut's children in the hands of unspecified individuals, particularly at a time when the effectiveness of all types of testing is being questioned.

Sincerely,
Abbie Chase
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